her dominions. Bhavanager State has also fallen in line. The Bombay Government has accepted to introduce Prohibition within 20 years. The sister State of Travancore is not lagging behind. The Diwan of Travancore, in his address to the Assembly this year, says that the Government has accepted the suggestion that a reduction of 5 per cent in the number of both abkari and toddy shops should be reduced and has done so at the beginning of the currect official year. Note what he further says : "It is also worthy of note that the consumption of country liquor in the country has been reduced by nearly 52 per cent during the last four years." The policy of our State should also be to introduce Prohibition within the shortest possible time.

Jails.—

Reformation is one of the main objects of punishment. In an answer given yesterday, it is stated that no definite arrangements have been made for imparting moral instruction to the inmates of jails. This is quite unsatisfactory and disappointing.

Sanitation.—

The amount budgetted for 1101 for General Sanitation Works is only Rs. 19,000, whereas the amount for 1100 was Rs. 55,350. I wonder why the amount for General Sanitation, which is a very important subject, was so much reduced. The drastic retrenchment made with regard to this item is very regrettable. The Government should see its way to increase this amount. More money than what is allotted now is, everywhere, undoubtedly required. To give one instanc—for carrying on the immediate improvements required with regard to Kunnamkulam Town Improvement, more than what is budgetted is required.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Mr. President—Sir, After the learned discourse of several of the hon'ble members on the subject of the coming year's budget, I am glad to submit that I have only very few remarks to make. Sir, even at the inception of this Legislative Council, when its members are thoroughly unacquainted with the business to be transacted in such an institution, a budget is presented to them with a deficit of a lakh and thirty thousand rupees. I think the members have every reason to congratulate themselves that they have an

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occasion even at the commencement of this Council to deal with a budget with such a large deficit. Probably, the Government also are anxious to see how the learned members of this Council are going to handle it, especially with such a short notice. Yesterday, in the course of the discussion, I observed several of my colleagues suggesting various methods of cutting down the several items so as to make the budget a balanced one. In my own way I shall also try to make a few suggestions towards the same effect.

Sir, the first item to which I want to draw the attention of this Council is Agriculture and farming. A fairly large sum of the State revenues, to the extent of more than two lakhs of rupees, seems to have been set apart for the up-keep of this department. In this connection, I may be permitted to bring to your notice that those who are engaged in agriculture and farming are chiefly members of the so-called depressed classes. Coming as I do from the Tiyah community, I should probably be expected to know something more about the cocoanut tree than the other members. My people pride themselves by saying that the "Kalpa Vriksha", namely, the cocoanut tree, was brought into Kerala from Ceylon by the Ezhuvas—the very term Ezhuvan having been derived from the word Ezham, by which name the island of Ceylon was formerly known. Now, having such a vast amount of hereditary knowledge about the cocoanut tree at my back and with my little training of Botanical Science, I think I am justified in saying that the present system, adopted by the Agricultural Department, of growing a cocoanut garden at an enormous cost of four thousand and odd rupees a year with an annual yield of only a thousand and seven hundred and odd rupees, is the most detrimental policy that could ever be adopted. I can assure this Council with perfect certainty that our cocoanut cultivators do know the art of successfully cultivating cocoanut trees without any instructions from the Agricultural Expert and consequently, I submit to you, Sir, that this item can very safely be omitted and the Government garden be disposed of at the earliest opportunity for whatever price it will fetch, so that this recurring item of expenditure may be stopped once for all.

Again, coming to the question of maintaining a Central Farm at a cost 36 thousand and odd rupees with

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

less than one-half this sum as its yield, it has already been pointed out by some of my brother members in their brilliant speeches that it is a policy disastrous to the financial condition of our State. I would, therefore, not only agree with the members who proposed that the Government might put a stop to this Farm as early as possible, but also, to go a step further, submit that it should be sold in a public auction without any unnecessary delay and its money value realised in ready cash. At the same time, however, I would earnestly request our Government not to abolish the Agriculturai Department completely, as another member seemed to suggest. This department is absolutely necessary, but it ought to conduct more of scientific research work, and I am sure they have abundant work in the direction of Entomology and Parasitology in Cochin. We are now immensely troubled, as you know, by a peculiar insect causing havoc upon the cocoanut tree, and no proper solution has yet been arrived at by the scientists as to the methods of effectively eradicating this evil. The people of Cochin—nay, even of the whole of the cocoanut-producing countries—would feel highly indebted to our Agricultural Department, if a proper method of effectively preventing this destructive pest is discovered by it. Cochin State, I am told, is one of the most suitable places for Biological research work. Prof. K. Ramunni Menon of the Presidency College, Madras, I am informed, made one of his wonderful discoveries of a cocoelian, named after him " Icthiyophis Menoni ", from his own garden at Trichur, without taking even the slightest trouble to find it out. Mr. Ramunni Menon and other eminent scientists of the Madras Presidency, as far as I know, are all unanimously of opinion that the pursuit of scientific research in Cochin would be amply rewarded. Sir, I do not want to bother you with more of the details of scientific pursuits that can be conducted successfully in Cochin, but suffice it to say that the Agricultural Department in Cochin can be easily converted into one of greater usefulness to ourselves as well as to the scientific world.

As to the advisability of having shifting model gardens year after year, it has already been pointed out by the hon'ble member for the Jewish constituency

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that small plots can be taken up by the Government in the midst of cultivable areas on temporary lease, &c., and that the use of scientific implements and manures can be demonstrated on such plots of land. When they are seen to make better yield, the neighbouring cultivators, even without your inviting them, are bound to adopt your methods and take to your instructions voluntarily. This can be carried on in different localities year after year throughout the State. I understand that this system of carrying instruction to the very door of the ryots has been very successfully adopted in America and Japan, and I think this will be the only effective method of giving instruction to our cultivator, who is either too poor or indifferent to be benefited by the experiments carried on in the Central Farm at Ollukkara, several miles away from his home.

The next department to which I would like to draw the attention of this House is the Tramway. I am one of those who are fully convinced that this department should be abolished *in toto*. Even at the time of its introduction, it was not intended, by the then authorities, to be an everlasting institution. It was only intended to do a definite purpose, and after its fulfilment, to be done away with. I submit now that this purpose has been carried out long before, and it is high time now to put a stop to it. There is very little timber now to be brought down from the Parambikulam Hills, but even if we have some, their transport can be effected by private agencies, as is done even now. It is disastrous for us to continue to run the Tram and maintain this costly line. My suggestion is that the whole thing should be dismantled, and the present Tram road should be left as a public highway up to the foot of the Hills. The iron and other materials, since they might get rotten if kept for a long time, have also to be disposed of in public auction. Or, if the Government are of opinion that, in some remote time to come, it may be a prosperous concern to run the Tram again—which, I believe, will only be a summer dream—a few hands may be kept on for the preservation of these materials. Anyhow, let us not have such a costly white elephant—as my colleagues put it—to ride on which will, in course of time, eat away both ourselves and our State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Coming to the Education Department, I think our Government ought to make Primary education compulsory and free in the State. I am not in a position to say whether it will cause any additional strain upon the Government coffers and, if it does, to what extent it will go. If, from the circumstances, the Government find it impossible to give free Primary education to all, at least to such of the communities as are backward in point of education this concession ought to be granted. In the case of Pulayas and others, the Government may have to give their children even a noon-meal, in addition to free education, as an incentive for them. Under the rigorous system of caste we have been hitherto kept out of public schools and public institutions ever since the memory of man. All the full benefits of education were enjoyed by the more fortunate and favoured communities. All the expenditure incurred by the Government in respect of Education, till a few years ago, was utilised for the favoured communities. Then, why not make some amends on behalf of the backward classes now? I am not unaware of the few concessions that are granted to us. The Government of Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari imparted half-free education to all the members of the backward communities. His successor, however, thought that undue advantage is being taken of that concession and restricted it by various conditions.

I am unable to agree with some of my colleagues who expressed their regret at the introduction of the B. A. classes at Ernakulam. Their fear is that our country will be flooded with unemployed graduates, which will be a source of great anxiety to our State, hereafter. I believe, my learned colleagues are labouring under a misapprehension, namely, that one takes the B. A. or M. A. degree for the sake of getting an employment. I fail to agree with them, however, in this respect. I believe, with more of higher education in the State, there will be a change for the better in the public opinion of the country; and more enlightened views will prevail, for want of which members of my community have to suffer immensely now.

Then, coming to the Travelling Allowances budgetted for the officers in the various departments, I

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regret to find, in several cases, it comes to more than the pay of the officers concerned. I believe that I will not be misunderstood when I say that the travelling allowance should not be a source of income for the officers. They have a permanent pay, and the travelling allowance is intended to cover the actual expenses of their travelling only. The matter has been fully dealt with by my colleagues, and since I have nothing original to add to it, I do not want to tax the time of the President.

Next, I shall pass on to the Excise Department. At the outset, I should invite the attention of the President to the fact that this department exclusively concerns the members of the community, of which I am the representative. But I am sorry to find that, throughout this department, we would find only very few representatives from the Tiyahs employed in it. The Superintendent, probably, has reason to congratulate himself at the enormous swell that is seen in the income of this department in recent years. I need not say that the object of the department and the aim with which the Excise Regulation itself is drawn up are to bring about, ultimately, the ideal state of total abstinence. It may not be out of place for me to remark here that this view is sometimes lost sight of by the department in its enthusiasm to make public revenue out of it. No civilised Government in these days depends upon Excise revenue as anything reliable. It is a taxation imposed upon some of the vices of the people, and when these vices are removed, the revenue is bound to fall. I say this with a view to see that the department should be worked, not merely with the object of deriving as much profit out of it, but also keeping in view the ultimate goal of ideal abstinence. I should not be understood to mean that the Government should give up its profit out of this department altogether, because it is an immoral gain. On the other hand, I am going to suggest another new source of income to the Government out of this department. I say only that the Excise authorities should keep in view the means of diminishing the number of shops and the number of trees for tapping, so that in course of time the ultimate goal shall be reached.

Sir, I believe, if my information is correct, the ex-Superintendent of the Excise Department got from the

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British Government a rebate of the duty levied on the ganja imported into our State from British territory. I believe that the duty levied upon opium imported from British parts into our State still continues to be paid. Of course, we do not grow ganja and opium in our State, on the understanding that the requisite quantity of them will be supplied to us from British territory. Following the arguments for the remission of duty on ganja, I think we have a legitimate right for a similar rebate of the duty imposed upon opium alsol. I am sorry that I am unable to put forward any further information regarding this matter but the Honourable Member on the other side might be in a better position than myself, if he goes through the papers in question, to know what course he should adopt for the realisation of this large amount of money that is taken from us, which we have a rightful claim to get back. It may be that we may be able to get back a refund of the whole sum that has been taken from us till now, in which case it might come to a very desirable amount.

Sir, I have offered the few remarks I had to make upon the budget under discussion. I may, however, in conclusion, say that a vast community—such as the one of which I have the honour to be the representative—which, I believe, comes to a little less than a third of the total population of the State and which contributes mainly to swell up the Government coffers, may not be absolutely lost sight of when the distribution of the amounts thus collected is effected by a prosperous budget for the coming year.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുഞ്ഞു മുഹമ്മദ് (മുഹമ്മദീയർ), ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ അവർകൾക്കു് വന്ദനം,

ഭരണകർത്താക്കൾ ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഭരണീയരെ ഭാഗഭാക്കുകളാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു് ഏതു കാലത്തും ഭരണീയരുടെ ഉഗ്രമായ ശല്യം കൊണ്ടു മാത്രമാണു്. എന്നാൽ നമ്മുടെ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങളെ ഭരണവിഷയത്തിൽ പങ്കുകൊള്ളിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഉള്ള ഈ കൌൺസിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതു് അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ശല്യം കൊണ്ടൊന്നുമല്ലെന്നും, കാലചക്രത്തിന്റെ ഗതിയെ സൂക്ഷ്മദൃഷ്ട്യാ കണ്ടറിഞ്ഞു് പുത്രനിർവ്വിശേഷമായ വാത്സല്യം കൊണ്ടു് തന്റെ പ്രജകളുടെ ഗുണത്തെ മാത്രം ലാക്കാക്കി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നും പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു് അധികമായ സന്തോഷം ഉണ്ടു്. നമ്മുടെ ഭരണചക്രം മുഴുവനും നമ്മുടെ കൈരളീയരിൽ തന്നെ അർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടു

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ള്ളതും മുസ്ലീമങ്ങൾക്ക് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രത്യേകം പ്രാതിനിധ്യം നൽകീട്ടുള്ളതും നമ്മുടെ രാജകുടുംബത്തിന്റെ മഹത്തായ പ്രവൃത്തികളാകുന്നു. ഈ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടങ്ങളായ ഔദാര്യങ്ങൾക്ക് നാം എല്ലാവരും മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിനോടും അവിടത്തെ കുടുംബത്തോടും ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടും കൃതിയുള്ളവരായിരിക്കേണ്ടതും ഇരിക്കുന്നതും ആണ്. മുസ്ലീമങ്ങൾക്ക് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്തുതരുന്ന എല്ലാ പ്രത്യേക ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾക്കും ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ സർവ്വ മുസ്ലീമങ്ങളുടേയും പ്രതിനിധി എന്ന നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദവമായി നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിരൂപണത്തിൽ എനിക്ക് ആദ്യമായി പറയാനുള്ളത് എന്റെ ജന്മഭൂമിയും ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഗുണദോഷങ്ങളിലും പങ്കുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ഒരു ഭാഗമായി ഗണിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതും ആയ കൊട്ടങ്ങല്ലൂരിന്റെ ആയവ്യയക്കണക്ക് ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് വളരെ വ്യസനകരമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. കൊട്ടങ്ങല്ലൂർ താലൂക്ക് അവിടത്തെ രാജകുടുംബത്തിന്റെ വകയാണെങ്കിലും ആ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ക്ഷേമത്തേയും അഭിവൃദ്ധിയേയും ലാക്കാക്കിയാണ് അതിന്റെ ഭരണം നമ്മുടെ ഈ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനെ ഏല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. രാജ്യത്തെ ആയവ്യയക്കണക്ക് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു് എല്ലാ വിധത്തിലും അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് കാരണമാണ്. ഇതു എല്ലാ പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടുകളും ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കും പരിഷ്കാരത്തിനും ആയി ഏല്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള കൊട്ടങ്ങല്ലൂരിനെ ഈവിഷയത്തിൽ ഭാഗഭാക്കാക്കാത്തതു് അനുചിതം ആകുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് വരുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ്റ് മുതലെങ്കിലും ഈവിഷയത്തിൽ കൊട്ടങ്ങല്ലൂരിനും പ്രവേശനം നൽകുന്നതിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു് കരുണ ഉണ്ടാവാൻ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

പിന്നീടുള്ളതു് സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ യഥാർത്ഥ ദാസന്മാരായി വേലചെയ്തു പട്ടിണി കിടക്കുവാൻ നിർബന്ധിതരായ വില്ലേജ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സംഗതിയാണ്. സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ ദുരുദ്യോഗവും പരിചയപ്പെടുന്നവരും എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയും നാട്ടുകാരുടേയും ശാപത്തിനും ശകാരത്തിനും പാത്രീഭവിക്കുന്നവരും ആയ ഇവരുടെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടേണ്ടവിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ദയാദൃഷ്ടിയെ ഞാൻ സവിനയം ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി സാമാജികന്മാരിൽ ദുരുദ്യോഗവും വിലപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കൃഷിവകുപ്പിനെ കുറിച്ചാണ് തുടരാനുള്ളതു്. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ഒരു വ്യവസായിക രാജ്യം അല്ല. കൃഷിയെ ആശ്രയിച്ചു് നില്ക്കുന്ന ഒരു രാജ്യമത്രെ. അതുകൊണ്ടു് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ക്ഷേമാഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ കാംക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ഏവരോടും ഒരു കൃഷിവകുപ്പിന്റെ അത്യാവശ്യകതയെ കുറിച്ചു് പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കേണ്ടതില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ കൃഷിവകുപ്പുരേണം നമ്മുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കും മാർഗ്ദർശനത്തിനും തീരെ പര്യാപ്തമല്ല. സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ ദുരുദ്യോഗം കൃഷിക്കാരും മാമൂൽ അനുസരിച്ചു് കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നവരാണ്. ഒരു ഉത്തമവും പരിഷ്കൃതവും ആയ ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗം കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ പോലും മാമൂൽനി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ന്നും മാറാത്ത യാഥാസ്ഥിതികന്മാരാൽ നിറയപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു രാജ്യത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു കൃഷിവകുപ്പിനു മേൽത്തരക്കാരുടെ കൃഷിയോളം പോലും ആദായമില്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, ഭീമമായ നഷ്ടം അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ മാഗ്ഗത്തെ തുടരുന്നതിൽ കൃസൽ ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു അതിൽ വിശ്വാസം കുറയുന്നതിലും തന്നിമിത്തം അവയെ നിർത്തണമെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നതിലും ഒട്ടും അത്ഭുതത്തിനു ഇടയില്ല.

മണ്ണിന്റെ തരഭേദമനുസരിച്ചു കൃഷിചെയ്യേണ്ട ധാന്യങ്ങൾക്കും സസ്യങ്ങൾക്കും വിവിധത്വം ഉണ്ടെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലൊ. നമ്മുടെ പ്രധാന ഉൽപന്നങ്ങളായ തെങ്ങും നെല്ലും തന്നെ വിവിധത്വം ഉള്ളതുകളാണു. തെങ്ങിനു മണൽപ്രദേശങ്ങളും നെല്ലിനു മറ്റു പ്രദേശങ്ങളും ആണു കൂടുതൽ ഗുണപ്രദമായിട്ടുള്ളതു. മാതൃകാകൃഷികർ നടത്തേണ്ടതു വിത്തുകളുടെ ഇനവും തരവും നോക്കി അതാതിനു യോജിച്ചതും കൂടുതൽഗുണമുള്ളതും ആയ പ്രദേശങ്ങളെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിട്ടുവേണം. തെങ്ങുകൃഷിക്കായി ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള വൈറോലെ യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഇതിനു പറ്റിയ സ്ഥലമല്ലെന്നാണു എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു. തെങ്ങിനു കൂടുതൽഫലം കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു കടൽത്തീരങ്ങളിലും അതിന്റെ അയൽപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുമാണു. അതുകൊണ്ടു എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം സ്വീകാര്യമാണെങ്കിൽ കടൽതീരങ്ങളിൽ തെങ്ങുകൃഷി ധാരാളമായി ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങളുടെ മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥിതമായ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു ഒരു മാതൃകാതെങ്ങുകൃഷിത്തോട്ടം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയും, അവയ്ക്കുപയുക്തങ്ങളായ പരിഷ്കൃതായുധങ്ങളും വളങ്ങളും വിത്തുകളും ശേഖരിച്ചും അയൽരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർ ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള അവർകളുടെ മാഗ്ഗത്തെ തുടർന്നും ഈവകുപ്പിനെ ഉത്തരോത്തരം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തി ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനോടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വെറുപ്പിനെ തീരെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുന്നതിനും പോലെങ്കിലും ബഹുശ്രദ്ധനായിരിക്കുന്നതിനും കൃഷിവകുപ്പുമേലധികാരികൾ അവർകളോടു സവിനയം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതേ സമയംതന്നെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ തലയിൽ വലിച്ചുകയറിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വലിയ ഭാരങ്ങളിൽ പലതും ഏതുപ്രകാരണം എങ്കിലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. വേറെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വകുപ്പുമേലധികാരികളെ ഏല്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടും അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽമാത്രമെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനു അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ കൃഷിവിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിക്കുവാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളു.

അടുത്തതു എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പാണു. മദ്യപാനം ഏറ്റുകാലത്തും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെദോഷം ചെയ്യുന്നതാണെന്നുള്ളതു ലോകത്തിൽ എല്ലായിടത്തും ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പലസംഭവങ്ങളും ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമാണു. അമേരിക്കാമുതലായ പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യങ്ങളിപോലും ഈവകസംഗതികൾ നിർത്തൽചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പലമഹാന്മാരും പലപ്രകാരത്തിൽ പലവിധ പരിശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. എന്നുവെച്ചു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെന്റ് പലവിധ നഷ്ടങ്ങളും സഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തു് ഉടനെ ഇതിനേക്കൂടി നിർത്തൽചെയ്തു് ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യകൂടി നഷ്ടമായി സഹിക്കേണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഗവൺമെന്റു് ക്രമേണ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിച്ചു് മദ്യപാനം കുറച്ചു കുറച്ചു് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാൽ ഉണ്ടാകാവുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തെ മറുവിധ ചിലവുകൾ കുറച്ചു് വരവുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ താഴ്മയായി അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. മദ്യപാനംകൊണ്ടു് രാജ്യത്തിനു് വലിയ ഒരുതുക ആദായം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നു് ഗവൺമെന്റിനു് തോന്നുമെങ്കിലും നേരേമറിച്ചാണു്. അതുമൂലം ഉണ്ടാകാവുന്ന ദീനങ്ങൾക്കു് ശുശ്രൂഷിക്കാനും ചികിത്സിക്കാനും പക്ഷേ അതിലിരട്ടി ഗവൺമെന്റു് ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടിവരും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു് ഏതുകാലത്തും ഭരണശക്തിയുള്ള ഗവൺമെന്റു് തന്നെ പ്രത്യേകം ദൃഷ്ടി പതിപ്പിക്കേണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ താഴ്മയായി അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഫാക്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനേയും, ടാംവെയേയും പറഞ്ഞു പലരും ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ടാംവെ നിമിത്തം വലിയ ഒരുതുക, അതായതു് 1,65,700 രൂപ, ഗവൺമെന്റിനു് അടുത്തകൊല്ലം നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് ബഡ്ജറ്റുകൊണ്ടു് കാണുന്നു. ഉടനെ ഈകാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകദൃഷ്ടി പതിയേണ്ടതും ഈവകവിഷയങ്ങളിൽ വരുന്ന നഷ്ടത്തെ മറുഭാഗം ചിലവുകൾ കുറച്ചു് പരിഹരിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണു്. അല്ലാതെ ഗവൺമെന്റിൽ നിന്നു് കൂടുതൽ നികുതി ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു് പിരിച്ചാലും ഞങ്ങൾ തന്നുകൊള്ളാം എന്നു് മിസ്റ്റർ കോഡർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ വളരെ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. കൂടുതൽ നികുതി ഉണ്ടാക്കി ജനങ്ങളുടെ തലയിൽ വലിച്ചുവെച്ചു് ജനങ്ങളെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ഇതിൻവണ്ണമുള്ള അധികച്ചിലവുകളെ കുറച്ചു് നഷ്ടം ഇല്ലാതാക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ താഴ്മയായി ബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

പിന്നെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയം ആണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ബ്രിട്ടീഷു് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ പോലും ഇത്ര പ്രചാരത്തിലുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് നമുക്കു് വളരെ അഭിമാനകരമാണു്. ഈകാര്യം ഗവൺമെന്റു് മനസ്സിലാക്കി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പിലേക്കു് എത്ര ചിലവാക്കിയിരുന്നാലും അതു് ഒരു നഷ്ടമാണെന്നു് വിചാരിക്കുവാൻ ഇടയില്ല. ഇതു് പ്രത്യക്ഷത്തിൽ ചിലവാണെങ്കിലും കൂടുതൽ ആദായം ഉള്ളതാണു്. ഏതുനിലക്കും ഈവകയ്ക്കായി ഗവൺമെന്റു് ചെയ്യുന്ന ചിലവു് അഭിനന്ദിക്കത്തക്കതാണു്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷു് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ഏതുഭാഗത്തു് നോക്കിയാലും കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തെപ്പോലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമാക്കാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ള മറ്റൊരുരാജ്യം കാണുകയില്ല. അതിനാൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമാക്കാൻ കൊച്ചി ഗവൺമെന്റു് ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷു് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ എല്ലാരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനേക്കാൾ ഉപരിയായ ഒരു സ്ഥാനം വഹിക്കാൻ കൊച്ചിക്കു് എല്ലാവിധസൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഏതുനിലക്കും മുന്നിൽനിന്നുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ക്ഷേമം ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ശ്രമി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ക്കേണമെന്ന് ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനെ താഴ്മയായി അറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം ഉപസംഹരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. K. S. RAMA AYYAR (*Trippunittura*).

Sir,

If the Government see that the expenditure is showing a tendency to outstride the receipts, and if they consider that they have reached a limit beyond which it will be unsafe to proceed, as is admitted by the Finance Member, then, there are two ways of doing things. One is to scrutinise the items of expenditure and stop and think and see if there are any possibilities of cutting them short; and the other is to tap new sources of revenue, as the Finance Member says. From the budget presented, it is clearly seen that the necessary effort has not been made to reduce expenditure. Heads of Departments sent in their estimates as usual, but the difficulty cropped up at the totalling. The Diwan admitted that he made his own cuts under several heads. With all this, it ended in a deficit of Rs. 1,38,000. Imagine now what the original figures must have been, and if they had all been accepted as they were sent in, to how much the deficit would have swelled. When, at the close of the short time at their disposal, they still found the above deficit, they fell back upon the accumulated surplus. Whatever be the circumstances or the predicament in which the Government were forced to take this step, it cannot but be said that it was not justifiable, seeing that a few departments, which have been spending public money without any apparent concern as to where the Government were landed, have even this time sent up estimates somewhat thoughtlessly, as was pointed out by several members yesterday. I have much to say regarding the services as a whole from top to bottom, regarding the educational policy of the State, regarding the Agricultural, Industrial, and the Co-operative, Departments and regarding the stores and supplies in the several departments of the State. But I reserve them all, until I get an opportunity of moving my resolutions:—(1) for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the Public Services, (2) for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the Stores and Supplies, (3) for placing the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

educational policy of the State under a well constituted Board of Education and (4) for entrusting the economic development of the State to a Board of Development.

I have now only to ask, if the Government think they are justified in drawing upon the surplus to provide for items of expenditure, which could have been put off for better times. I have to ask why the Government have been committing a sin in not giving living wages to nearly 2,500 public servants of the State, whose lot has always been in the back-ground. On a rough estimate, I find there are:—

630	servants getting	Rs.	12
60	do	,,	11
450	do	,,	10
680	do	,,	9
270	do	,,	8
415	do	,,	7

and a few, about 50 in number, who get even less than Rs. 7. From the way in which this item has been treated for the past so many years, I do not think that the Heads of Departments will ever take the necessary action in the matter. I wonder how these officers, who get fat salaries and substantial additions to their income by way of savings from the Travelling Allowances, go to snore peacefully on pay-day, after giving Rs. 7., Rs. 8 and Rs. 9 to their peons and masapadies. Talking of the unkindness of the superior officers, I cannot but point out that the Diwan Peishkar has been the unkindest man of all. Out of 415 seven-rupee men, 277 are in the Land Revenue Department, that is, about 70 per cent. Out of 270 eight-rupee men, about 100 are in the Land Revenue Department, that is, about 40 per cent. Besides these, there are 187 Menons on Rs. 12 and 84 Parvathiakarans on Rs. 12 in this department.

The Parvathiakaran is the head of an office, and his functions and responsiblities, according to the Land Revenue Manual and according to *mamool*, are many; and it is well-known that the brunt of the work of the Revenue Department falls to his share. Considering the prestige of his position, either the Parvathiakaran's post must be made honorary, or means must

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be found to make his wages better than that of sepoys and police constables. Then, as to the Menons, they are clerks proper, and they do in fact more work than the clerks in some offices, where the minimum pay is Rs. 20. The Government must realise that these low-paid servants are helpless beings. To whom can they complain? How much attention will be paid to the petition of a servant on 7 or 8 Rs. asking for an increment. In such cases, just as they do in the matter of the depressed classes, the Government must come down with parental care and see that they always get at least bare living wages. I have calculated that if 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are made 10; 10 and 11 made 12; 12, 13 and 14 made 15; it may cost the Government one lakh of rupees per year extra. The question will at once be asked: 'Where is the fund for all this?" If nothing else is possible next year, I ask the Government to fall back upon the accumulated surplus for one lakh more and provide for this increase and order disbursement from the 1st of Chingam. But I may also tell the Government that, if the Government accept some of the sensible and well thought out motions for cuts that will be made from to-morrow, when demands for grants are placed before the Council, I am sure that the Government will find enough to avoid drawing upon the surplus of Rs. 1,38,000, as contemplated in the budget estimate, and also to provide for this most necessary and unavoidable claim of the poor low-paid servants of the State, whose case has never had the sympathetic consideration it always deserved. As for future years, the whole of the next year can be utilised for setting matters right, and if the wisdom of the Government is applied, funds will surely be available.

As to the estimates, I shall say a word only on the budget of the Public Works Department. I have a very serious grievance against the budget of this department. Three villages of my constituency have been clamouring for a *thodu* as an outlet for the surplus waters of the Karingachira *puzha* for the past 15 years or more. The people of Trippunittura, the traders of that place especially, have been asking for a *thodu* from the Patinjara *puzha* so that they might bring goods from Cochin in boats right to the selling places. These two sets of people have petitioned the Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ever so many times, sent up memorials several times, and waited on the Diwans in deputations. To remind the Government of this long standing cry, I gave notice of a question for this session of the Council, asking the Government to place all the papers in connection with this complaint on the table. In fact, I was not very particular to see the papers, nor am I particular now. My idea was to remind the Government and induce the Government to provide for it in the budget for the ensuing year. Surveys were made, measurements of levels were taken, and I know there was some serious correspondence also on the subject during the past years. It was to draw the attention of the new Diwan and the new Chief Engineer to the importance of the complaint that I sent the question, and when, after the question was sent, some stir was made in the locality by the surveying or measuring work done by the men of the P. W. D., I thought my plan had the desired effect. But when I got the Preliminary Budget, I found that I was befooled. I need not point out the importance of a *thodu* to relieve the ryots from the ravages of surplus water. And the need for a *thodu* to help the poor traders of the poor town of Trippunittura is equally important. It seems that these two purposes can be served by one *thodu*, if it is made in the right place. I don't know whether there will be any practical difficulties. That is for the technical experts to decide. But this I know, that the Government have neglected two very important and absolutely necessary items of public utility, for which the people have been crying in vain for the past fifteen years. While this is absent in the budget, I wonder how the Government provided Rs. 25,000 for Electric Lighting at Mattancherry. This item has been characterised as a luxury which the State cannot at present afford to provide for; and I do not want to say anything more on it. Even at this stage, I have not lost my hopes. I trust the Chief Engineer, who has direct and personal knowledge of the needs, will find his way to advise the Government as to the best means of early satisfying the people of these villages of Natamel, Tekkumbhagam and Tiruvankulam and the poor traders of the small town of Trippunittura.

By way of concluding my remarks on the budget

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

under discussion, I would ask for an explanation for the following:—

1. In the preparation of the statement of assets, is not the value of the stock on hand an important item? I find this item in the statements of assets of all companies and banks, and I find it in the statement of assets in the Budget of Travancore

2. *Page 2.*—If the Land Revenue Department is not selling agricultural implements, why should that item come under this head?

3. *Page 3.*—Why is it that the Agricultural Department does not expect any income from the sale of seeds and manure, while, I believe, it is the legitimate duty of the department to arrange for the distribution of good seeds and manure?

4. *Page 12.*—Is it not possible to give figures under each sub-head of the Advances Repayable, instead of putting in a number of sub-heads and bracketting them all and giving one big figure? Rs. 6,07,000 was, I believe, arrived at by adding up the smaller figures under each of the sub-heads; what then is the objection to noting the figures against each sub-head?

5. *Page 17.*—The explanation for the provision of Rs. 2,300 for the Survey School given in the Explanatory Statement of the Finance Member is not clear. It is said that only one man is being trained. How his training can cost so much, and how that cost can be classed as provision for a Survey School are still unintelligible.

6. *Page 20.*—Village Panchayats are entrusted with the work of water supply, and Rs. 21,850 is provided for under this head. The details are given on page 13 of the Appendix. On page 54, again, the Rural Sanitation Department is allowed Rs. 10,000 for improvements to water supply. Has this department sent in its programme?

7. *Page 43.*—A sum of Rs. 4,100 is allotted as Reserve Allowance. What is this meant for?

8. *Page 54.*—It is said in the Administration Report for 1099 that the Government gave up the colony to a Depressed Classes Development Society.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

What then is the purpose for which this amount is provided?

9. *Pages 62, 63, 64.*—Where are the Potteries? It is seen in the Administration Report for 1098 that the Government spent Rs. 58,996 on it in that year. In 1099 the Government spent Rs. 62,513 and sent away the Bohemian expert and appointed one Mr. Balappa, a south Indian expert.

10. *Page 70.*—As in the matter of receipts, so in the matter of disbursements, only the total figure is given against a number of sub-heads under Advances. The total figure is Rs. 7,98,500. Will it be difficult to note the figures against each of the sub-heads?

11. *Page* 11 of the Appendix.—The Cheranellur Panchayat is said to be opening a road for the use of Valans at a cost of Rs. 500 and to be completing a road for Pulayas at a cost of 300. Is it desirable to allot money for making roads for the exclusive use of certain castes?

Mr. O. R. CHUMMAR (*Vellarappalli*).

Sir,

The budget that this Council is called upon to discuss is a deficit budget, even though the revenue of the State, considering the size, population and the economic condition of the State, must be deemed to be a very large one. This deficit arises, not from the undertaking of any big enterprise, but is, generally speaking, due to the enormity of the recurring expenditure of the State. It is mainly due to the heavy cost of running the machinery of the administration in its various departments, which had in recent years a very wild growth. In this connection, it is also worthy of note that, during the last four years, we were having a recurring deficit, with the exception of the year 1097, in which year there was a slight surplus of about Rs. 17,000. The accounts of these years show that there was an average deficit of about Rs. 18,000 a year in spite of the surplus of 1097. The budget estimate of 1100 also showed a deficit of over 2 lakhs. It is true that the revised estimate shows a surplus of about 4 lakhs; but, as the Finance Member has

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

stated, this surplus is due to the realisation of the arrears of customs due from the British Government under the Interportal Trade Convention. The arrears thus received come to Rs. 4,46,000, so that, if we deduct that amount from the revised estimate of the year 1100, we will find that there was a deficit of over a lakh of rupees this year also. The only difference is that, while the deficits up to 1099 were calculated in thousands of rupees, in 1100 and 1101 we have to calculate it in terms of lakhs.

Thus, the State is having a continuous and progressive deficit, and when we enquire into the cause of this recurring deficit, we find that it is due to an enormous and unjustifiable growth of public expenditure. For the last five or six years, there has been a steady increase in the cost of the administration. The total expenditure, which stood below 53 lakhs in 1094, rose to 70,27,800 in the revised estimate of 1100 and to nearly 72 lakhs in the budget under consideration.

Of this 72 lakhs, Rs. 19,000 represents the amount budgetted for Town Improvement Schemes and Rs. 5,12,524, the amount set apart for original Public Works. Deducting these two items, the balance of Rs. 66 66,776 represents the annual recurring and unavoidable expenditure of the State. Such a recurring expenditure is certainly too enormous for such a small State like that of ours, and I am sure the whole House will agree with me when I say that the administrative and fiscal policy of the State should hereafter be to minimise the recurring expenditure as far as possible and to devote as much money as possible for developing the economic and social welfare of the subjects.

But in recent years it would seem that the object of the administrative policy has been simply to let existing things continue. In my opinion, certain departments are now maintained simply because they exist. The Tramway and the Agricultural Departments are now maintained simply because they exist, as if their existence is an end in itself. They might have been started with the best of intentions; but they have themselves demonstrated their utter uselessness.

As regards the State Industries, the budget under consideration shows receipts to the extent of Rs. 1,850

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and expenditure to the extent of Rs. 21,157. Along with this we have also to take into consideration the accounts of the previous years. The receipts from the State Industries in 1099 was only Rs. 769, and in 1100, according to the revised estimate, it is only Rs. 870. On the other hand, the expenditure in 1099 was Rs. 47,382, and according to the revised estimate of 1100, it is Rs. 28,500. Thus the receipts estimated for the coming year is more than double the amount actually received in 1099 or 1100, while the expenditure for the coming year is less than half the amount actually spent in 1099 and about Rs. 7,000 less than the amount shown in the revised estimate of 1100. I do not know what is the reason for expecting such an increase in receipts and a reduction in expenditure.

Even supposing that these estimates will become actuals, is there any justification in continuing these industries? I believe, long argument is not necessary to convince you that the State Industries must be totally abolished. The receipts estimated, namely, Rs. 1,850, include the receipts from the Silk Farm and the Coir Factory at Cherai, while the expenditure for these enterprises is Rs. 970 for the Silk Farm and Rs 4,910 for the Coir Factory, that is, a net deficit of Rs. 4,030. Under these circumstances, can we say that they are profitable concerns, or are models for the people to follow? I submit, they cannot be sustained either on commercial or on scientific grounds, and if we take into account the experience of other countries, it will also be found that, as a rule, State industries seldom thrive; for that thrift and economy which generally characterise private enterprise will generally be lacking in State management. This House will also agree with me when I say that starting State industries is not the best way to develop the industries of a country. England, Germany and America, which now stand foremost in the industrial world, developed their industries, not by means of starting State industries, but by granting protection and even bounty to the industrialists. I would, therefore, recommend the Government to abolish the State Industries and to develop the industries of the country by giving proper assistance and encouragement to private enterprise.

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If these industries are abolished, the work that would remain for the Industrial Department would be only the management of one or two Industrial Schools and a few Commercial classes. This work can very well be entrusted to the Education Department, and if that is done, the Government can make a net gain of at least Rs. 25,000 a year.

The Agricultural and the Tramway Departments also deserve to be abolished. But I do not propose to deal with them in detail, as some of the other members have fully dealt with them.

I wish to say next a few words regarding some of the heads under taxation. First of all, I may call your attention, Sir, to the Canal Navigation receipts. The receipts estimated under this heading come to Rs. 25,000, while the expenditure comes to Rs. 10,713, leaving a net income of Rs. 14,287. Now, I feel no doubt that this net revenue is far too small when compared with the burden that it imposes upon the public. The system now followed is to grant licenses for boats for a year. This system, Sir, imposes an unnecessary burden upon the owner of the boat, while, at the same time, very often, it causes unnecessary vexation and hardship to the one who uses it. The passenger, who gets into a boat, either unaware of the system of license, or forgetting to see if the boat is licensed, is arrested on his way, and is not allowed to proceed either forwards or backwards, unless he has money and is prepared to pay the amount which is due from somebody else. Added to the inherent defect of the system, the public have also to put up with the caprices of the Canal Officers. Instances are not wanting of a passenger, who, though prepared to pay for the unknown owner of the boat, is harrassed and delayed in the Canal Office for the simple reason that he had failed to call the officer there "ഓച്ചക്കാരൻ". I would, therefore, recommend that the present system be replaced by a system of granting permits for a day or for a journey and also of farming out the collections to contractors, as is done in the case of Toll Gates. If this is done, Sir, the gross income itself will appreciably increase, while the expenditure will be reduced practically to nothing. The change will also have the wholesome effect of diffusing the burden of taxation over the general public, instead of

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making it stick on to the few owners of boats. Less vexation also will be caused to the public, as passengers can easily get away on payment of 6 pies or one anna.

Another point which I wish to suggest, Sir, is the imposition of an income-tax on a progressive scale. The justification for this taxation is clear, and here it is sufficient to say that it has been introduced in almost all the civilized countries ; and in western countries it has become one of the chief sources of revenue.

If this tax is introduced, and the retrenchment that has been suggested by me and other members of this House carried out, we shall have, in the future, not deficit budgets, but surplus budgets. The Government shall also be able to undertake more original irrigation works, roads and canals, and thereby to do better justice to the tax-payer.

The Council rose for lunch at 2 p. m. It resumed its sitting at 3 p. m.

President.—

According to the list of business prepared for the day, a resolution stands in the name of Mr. C. Achyuta Menon. I have allotted only two days for the general discussion of the budget. It closes to-day. Almost all the non-official members have had their say on the budget, and I must allow some time to my officers to reply to the points raised by the non-official members in their speeches on the budget. I propose to devote the afternoon also for the general discussion of the budget. My officers who are privileged to sit here will have their say, but any non-official, if he thinks it absolutely necesssary that he should have his say, will kindly see that he cuts short his speech. Mr. Achyuta Menon's resolution cannot be taken up to-day.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

Sir, I beg to convey to His Highness the loyal homage of my constituents for the share His Gracious Highness has been pleased to bestow on us in the Government of the State.

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Before I proceed to the budget, I wish to remark that there is nothing to be wondered at in our aping others, since it is in theory our inheritance. But to carry it to the extent to which the Government have gone in answering questions put by the hon'ble members of this House is, to be parlimentary, most disappointing.

I shall begin the budget by prefacing that the emoluments of the Heads of Departments are too high for the State. This will be proved to the hilt, if we only call to mind that they were the pay of the persons in the higher grade who were pitch-forked into places of lower pay, but which was not taken notice of when other persons were employed for the post.

In all the departments there are more posts than are necessary. In the Land Revenue Department there are too many Revenue Inspectors. To give another instance from Chittur, there is an Irrigation Inspector whose work can well be got done by the Vadamala Parvathiakaran and Menon who have only about 60 pattadars to attend to. I find, under Agriculture, a sum of Rs. 9,000 and odd provided for avenues. There was no such heavy expenditure when the avenues were under the Public Works Department, and so a considerable amount can be saved by the retransfer of the avenues to the said department. Further, that an Agricultural Department which has budgetted an expenditure of Rs. 84,852 had done nothing, had been of no use to the place I hail from, a purely agricultural place, is very regrettable. And it has been given expression to in this House that the department has been of no use to the agriculturists as a whole in the State. This is a matter which the Government will do well to go minutely into.

In the matter of certain Panchayats, the treatment has been step-motherly. The inhabitants of Nalleppalli in Chittur Taluk have been praying, in season and out of season, for the repair of the only public tank, to the Government directly and through the Superintendent of Panchayats. Their prayer has not yet been granted. In this connection, I beg to be excused in remarking that the Panchayats lack supervision, and that they were doing better under the Diwan Peishkar, as the Tahsildars had a sort of supervision over them.

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There is a cry for Prohibition everywhere. The income of the department is going down, as it must. Want of tact on the part of officers in dealing with the license-holders is the prime cause of the fall in revenue this year. The department has yet to learn that it is not right to use its strength like a giant, even if it is invested with a giant's force.

In the Department of Law and Justice, the expenditure is increasing every year. The appointment of an Additional Judge was considerered at one time a superfluity. But Additional Munsiffs have come into the arena now. This was necessitated mostly by the want of discretion in the choice of persons for the posts.

The Education Department is also over-manned. It is highly necessary to cut down the increasing expenditure under this head, which can well be done by handing over the responsibility for Secondary ed:catoin to private hands wherever possible.

Almost all the Mofussil hospitals and dispensaries are ill-provided with medicines. The major portion of the big amount of the two lakhs and a half spent annually is appropriated for the equipment of the Hospitals at Ernakulam and Trichur, and to the appointment of unnecessary hands, so that the needy poor in the Mofussil are turned back from the medical institutions of the places, which give no help for want of medicines. Under this department there are a set of officers called the Taluk Sanitary Inspectors, drawing a salary of Rs. 75 and Rs. 100, with very little or no work, other than that of verifying 75 per cent of the vaccinated cases. The work assigned to them at their inception is allied to the work of the Panchayats. There are Panchayats in almost all the villages. The work of the Inspectors can very well be transferred to the Panchayats and their posts abolished. There is no justification to continue them. Even here there are more hands than are necessary, so much so, that recently one has been deputed to the Municipal Council, Chittur.

Public Works—I find an amount of Rs. 10,800 for the extension of the Nemmara High School building.

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